



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



JULY 1, 2003

REGIONAL DIRECTOR



NWS Seattle Science Operations Officer Brad Colman (on left) and Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory Meteorologist Nick Bond assist two camp volunteers to inflate the weather balloon (Pibal) prior to launch outside.

WFO Seattle Participates in First NOAA

Science Camp: Congratulations to Chris Hill and the WFO Staff in Seattle for participating in NOAA's first science camp for kids.

From June 23-27, middle-school-age children in Seattle got hands-on science experience with scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Sand Point facility during the agency's first science camp for kids. The campers were divided into five groups, and each were led by a middle school science teacher/counselor. The groups rotated to a different NOAA office each day to participate in activities that explore the mysteries of our oceans and atmosphere. WFO Seattle offered students an opportunity to learn about

forecasting the weather. Campers discussed the NWS mission, with emphasis on forecast and warning programs and atmospheric observations. Students also helped to inflate a weather balloon and the campers released the balloon enabling the students to watch and learn about wind measurements aloft. The pilot project proposal was approved by NOAA Administrator Conrad Lautenbacher Jr. (USN, ret.), who provided \$15,000 in a special outreach grant to fund the project. Two educational coordinators and three middle school science teachers worked with the NOAA scientists to develop age-appropriate projects and activities and two additional teachers served as camp counselors. The camp was free to the 100 children, ages 10-12, who attended.

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Lightning Safety Awareness Week: The week of June 22-28, 2003, was designated as lightning awareness week. Western Region offices participated by providing Public Information Statements, providing information and links on web sites, distributing of lightning safety posters to golf courses and other outdoor venues, conducting media workshops and interviews, and distributing articles to local newspapers about lightning safety. Some of the highlights included:

WFO Sacramento had one of the most ambitious projects. The office sent an National Weather Service representative to every golf course in the Sacramento area (50 courses) to discuss lightning safety, provide them with lightning safety materials and to showcase the WFO web page and the Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) product.

Tucson WCM Tom Evans said their June 23rd Kick-off Press conference at Vaisala was very successful and included participation of the NWS, American Red Cross, Tucson Electric Power Company, Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Home Land Security, the Pima County Board of Supervisors Chair, Sharon Bronson, and the Mayor of Tucson, Robert Walkup. Proclamations were received from the State of Arizona Governor's office, the Pima County Board of Supervisors and the City of Tucson Mayor's office. This is the third year in a row that the partners have participated in Thunderstorm Safety Awareness Week. They conducted a June 27th Wrap-up Press Conference at NWS involving the partners and a lightning strike survivor.

In Pocatello, WCM Vern Preston took the NOAA PSA tape he received on June 23 and went out and TV stations began playing them immediately.

According to WFO Reno WCM Roger Lamoni, the forecast office hosted a very successful media workshop June 18. All 3 network affiliates in Reno were represented as was AP, Tahoe Daily Tribune, KKOH (LP1 / Citadel Communications) and Nevada Broadcaster's Association / State EAS Chair. Interviews for LSAW were conducted during the week.

WFO Salt Lake City WCM Dave Toronto reports that June, as in years past, Utah Governor Leavitt signed a declaration regarding Lightning Safety Awareness Week (LSAW) in ceremonies involving local media.

WFO Seattle WCM Ted Buehner sent a NWS/Professional Golf Association (PGA) partnership lightning safety poster to more than 100 western Washington golf course head professionals in May, as part of the 2003 Lightning Safety Awareness Week effort. A cover letter and list of localized lightning safety tips accompanied the poster.



Jim Reynolds shows the Lightning Safety Awareness poster.

On June 23, WFO Medford WCM Jim Reynolds held a SkyWarn spotter training class in Coos Bay, Oregon. A special emphasis was placed on lightning safety. Jim handed out copies of the new lightning awareness poster along with lightning safety refrigerator magnets. Nineteen people attended the training and four new people signed up to be spotters for the Medford office. On June 26, Jim traveled to the Fort Bidwell Paiute Indian Reservation in extreme northeastern California to give a lightning safety presentation. Jim handed out cloud charts, "Wheels of Disaster", Lightning Safety refrigerator magnets, and copies of the awareness poster for use in the Community Center.



Lamoille Country Fair: On June 29, staff from WFO Elko participated in the annual Lamoille Country Fair. Nearly 4000 visitors attended this event at the base of the Ruby Mountains in the community of Lamoille. Many visitors stopped by the NWS booth to gather weather information and learn about the role of the NWS in the local community. Roger Smith (General Forecaster) is seen in the photo on the far right, describing the WSR-88D radar to two of our customers.



Storm Ready Communities in Nevada: NWS designated Clark County, Nevada, as a StormReady county, and the communities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson, and Mesquite. In a June 24 ceremony at the NWS Forecast Office in Las Vegas, the NWS commended the state's first communities to be recognized for efforts to enhance their hazardous weather operations. This is especially timely as Southern Nevada nears the start of its traditional flash flood season.

WFO Las Vegas MIC Kim Runk tells the audience about Nevada's first StormReady communities.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This weeks statement of the week is a Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) issued by senior forecaster Chris Gibson of WFO Salt Lake City. Chris used the HWO to alert all emergency responders and customers of the product to the very high fire danger faced by Utah and Southeast Idaho. This is an excellent use of the HWO. Good job Chris!

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HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK...UPDATED
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
 734 AM MDT TUE JUL 1 2003

UPDATED FOR HAZARDOUS FIRE WEATHER

THIS HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK IS FOR THE WESTERN TWO-THIRDS OF

July 2, 2003

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UTAH...EXTREME SOUTHEAST IDAHO AND EXTREME SOUTHWEST WYOMING

.DAY ONE... TODAY

WILDLAND FUELS ARE CRITICALLY DRY ACROSS WESTERN AND SOUTHERN UTAH. STRONG WINDS AND HOT TEMPERATURES COMBINED WITH VERY LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL CAUSE SEVERE FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS ACROSS WESTERN AND SOUTHWEST UTAH TODAY.

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN... WEDNESDAY THROUGH MONDAY

SEVERE FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS WILL CONTINUE WEDNESDAY ACROSS SOUTHERN UTAH. CONDITIONS WILL MODERATE FOR LATE IN THE WEEK.

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WCJIN-WYSW

Public Weather Meeting in Minneapolis: Here are a few highlights from last week's Public Weather meeting with the Regions and OCWWS, attended by Craig Schmidt:

1. The Point Forecast Matrix (PFM) is not mandated to begin on October 1, but can be started anytime from now through the end of the calendar year. They will be mandatory at all offices by December 31, 2003.
2. The "<" symbol used by 75 percent of WR WFOs to delineate spot temps/pops in the ZFP will not be allowed after October 1, 2003. The only symbol that can be used for this purpose is the "&" one line above the spot temps/pops. WR MSD recommends eliminating the spot temps/pops from your zones, if possible, and educating customers on the SFT and/or PFM for point forecast information. A national PNS will be issued shortly highlighting some of the changes in the ZFP.
3. The draft instruction for 10-506 (Digital Data Products) may become an entire new Directive, with separate instructions for different types of digital services. Details to follow in the next few weeks.
4. WR offices can continue to issue event-driven SPS outlooks in addition to the daily HWO to meet local customer needs.

WWA implementation and VTEC: VTEC will be implemented nationwide in December 2003, something many NWS customers have been anxiously awaiting for some time. WR has insisted that we wouldn't implement VTEC until software could code it without forecaster intervention; OB2 will complete that requirement. By December, all WR WFOs will be required to use WWA to issue long fused watch/warning/advisory products and Warngen for short fused products, in order to correctly and automatically produce the proper VTEC codes.

VTEC will greatly enhance the dissemination of NWS products by providing detailed

coded information that can be easily extracted and used by our customers. All WFO operational staff members should become familiar with the code, though you will not have to physically enter it on your products. For more information, see the VTEC web site at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/vtec/index.shtml>.

WWA will contain a number of improvements for OB2 later this summer. The OB2 upgrades are explained nicely at the following web site: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/wwa/docs/WWA-OB2-000-NEW.pdf>. For those WFOs who have not been using WWA, you will want to become familiar with it before using it "live". A good place to start is the WWA User's Guide at: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/wwa/users_guide.htm.

Contact Craig Schmidt at MSD if you have any questions on these items.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

10th Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction: The Tenth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West will be held on Thursday November 6, 2003, at the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Reno, Nevada. The objectives of this annual workshop are to discuss major issues related to operational meteorology over the western United States and to foster interactions between researchers, applied meteorologists, and other professionals who rely on operational weather forecasts or data.

This year marks the first time that the workshop will be held in Reno, along the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada. With such a backdrop, the theme of the workshop will be "Meteorology of the Sierra Nevada." Presentations on operational meteorology issues relevant to both the western and eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada, and other regions in the west whose weather is impacted by the Sierra Nevada, are encouraged. Relevant topics include, but are not limited to hydrometeorology, streamflow forecasting, orographic precipitation, frontal modification by orography, upslope and downslope winds, fire weather, road weather, snow and avalanche studies, hydrologic cycle, and local forecast problems. Presentations may be requested to be given orally or as a poster. Since the workshop is restricted to one day only, the number of oral presentations may be limited. Ample time will be allotted for attendees to discuss posters with the presenters.

Individuals interested in presenting or simply attending the workshop may register online at <http://conferences.dri.edu/WxPrediction/regis.html>. The deadline for submitting a one-paragraph abstract is September 5 with conference registration requested by October 17. There are NO registration fees. Please register as soon as possible to help us plan for the workshop. The Workshop next year will be in Salt Lake City, hosted by the University of Utah.

The workshop is being hosted by the DRI Division of Atmospheric Sciences. For a list of hotel choices, visit http://conferences.dri.edu/WxPrediction/reno_hotels.pdf. The workshop will be held in the Elizabeth Stout Conference Center on the DRI-Reno Campus. There is ample parking on the lower lot adjacent to Raggio Parkway. For directions to DRI, visit http://conferences.dri.edu/WxPrediction/reno_map.pdf. Details on lunch options will be forthcoming.

For further information please contact David Kingsmill (775-674-7071) or e-mail davidk@dri.edu

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

NWR: The USDA funded transmitter in Dillon, MT, (WNG-638) is on air and transmitting. The transmitter was installed by Jim Hall (TFX) and Joe Lachacz (WRH). The transmitter will provide NWR coverage in Dillon and along the I-15 corridor.

WR ESA/ITO Workshop: The NWS WR hosted an ESA/ITO workshop in Salt Lake City during the week of June 17. The workshop agenda included WFO best practice presentations, AWIPS, IFPS, WFO networking, IT security, IT training, CIO topics and included breakout sessions designed specifically for the ESAs and ITOs. The workshop was a success and many action items are currently being completed. Action items can be reviewed on the WR SOD Intranet page:

http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/sod/2003esa_ito/actionItems.htm

Radiosonde Replacement System Deployment Planning Meeting:

Kevin Bolton, WRH Regional Maintenance Specialist, will be attending the RRS Deployment Planning meeting July 9-10 in Sterling, Virginia. Various topics to be discussed are program status, facility readiness, maintenance, training, operation, RSOIS, Legacy system, PCB removal, documentation, field support, and of course the deployment schedule. The team presenting the topics are: Tom Roberts, Franz Zichy, Doran Platt, Bill Ryman, Bob Thomas, Bill Blackmore, Joe Facundo, Jim Fitzgibbon, Wayne Martin, Greg Dalyia, Mike Brown, and Jae Lee. The Operational Acceptance Test (OAT) site selected for the Western Region is Salt Lake City. Kevin will prepare a summary of the meeting and post it on the SOD intranet page.

Telecommunications: In preparation for the NEXRAD Radar Level 2 data project, WRH is currently having the PVC bandwidth and PORT bandwidth of all WFO Regional Frame connections increased by 128 kb/s, except for the dual radar sites, PSR and SGX, which will have their PVC and PORT bandwidths increased by 256kb/s. To date, all the PVC's upgrades have been completed with little or no disruption of services. MCI is starting to schedule the PORT upgrades with the WFO's. TWC is scheduled for July 2 at 1:00 p.m. MFR, MSO, and PQR will be next week, and REV will be the week after. There should be no disruption of AWIPS service to any office while the LARSCOM units are being re-programmed.